GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4671
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2000
WATERSHED PROJECTS
SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Centrally sponsored schemes for watershed projects under Integrated wasteland development programme provide for the purpose of afforestation of Eco-fragile and Degraded Areas in Sikkim have not proved succesful as the assessment made to this effect;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make such schemes more effective and successful;

(d) the details of funds provided during the last three years for such schemes; and

(e) the steps taken for proper utilisation of funds?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b): No Sir. The implementation of watershed projects under the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme(IWDP)is reported to be satisfactory. The Programme is being implemented under the Guidelines for Watershed Development and afforestation of eco-fragile areas is one of the several activities undertaken in the watershed projects under these Guidelines.

(c) to (e): Funds amounting to Rs. 6.32 crores have been released for implementation of the programme in the State of Sikkim during the last three years. In order to ensure that targets are achieved effectively, the Guidelines provide constitution of a Watershed Development Advisory Committee at the district level and a Watershed Programme Implementation & Review Committee at the State Level. At the Central level, implementation of the project is monitored through periodical review by the Secretary (RD) with the concerned State Secretaries. Similar Reviews are undertaken by the Joint Secretary in charge of the programme. Visit to the project area by Central Officers handling the programme as well as by the Area Officers help in ensuring that targets are achieved by the Implementing Agencies. Zila Panchayats (ZPs) are required to submit Quarterly Progress Reports indicating financial and physical achievements under the projects.